

Message Text

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70-62

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 NEA-06 DODE-00 PM-03 L-02

USIA-04 OMB-01 EUR-10 RSR-01 /068 W

----- 044433

R 101220Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4215

INFO AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0812

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CT, LY

SUBJECT: BOKASSA'S ABORTED TRIP TO LIBYA

REF A. FORT LAMY 1037; B. BANGUI 761

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED ACCOUNT FROM SEVERAL RELIABLE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES HERE WHICH JIBES CLOSELY WITH THAT OF REF (A) REGARDING REASONS FOR BOKASSA'S ABORTED LIBYAN TRIP AND WHICH INDICATES AFFAIR HAS LEFT BOKASSA QUITE ANGRY WITH QADHAFI AND UNWILLING TO DEAL WITH HIM AT PRESENT TIME.

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCES, BOKASSA ORIGINALLY INVITED TO TRIPOLI JUNE 14 BUT THIS CONFLICTED WITH ASTRONAUT VISIT HERE. HE ANSWERED HE WOULD COME ON 20TH AND DEPARTED FOR CHAD ON 18TH WITHOUT HAVING RECEIVED REPLY. HE WAS TOLD IN FORT LAMY THAT 20TH NOT POSSIBLE AND TO AWAIT FURTHER WORD. ON 22ND QADHAFI FINALLY PROPOSED 25TH, WHICH WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO BOKASSA AND CAUSED HIM TO RETURN HOME IN A HUFF.

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3. A FEW DAYS LATER LIBYAN INFORMATION MINISTRY DELEGATION

ARRIVED UNANNOUNCED WITH OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF MAKING FILMS OF CAR. BOKASSA WAS REPORTEDLY FURIOUS, DELEGATION WAS PLACED UNDER HOTEL ARREST, SUMMONED BEFORE SPECIAL COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AND GIVEN A SEVERE TONGUE-LASHING, THEN SENT PACKING TO AIRPORT AND UNCEREMONIOUSLY SHIPPED OUT ON FIRST AVAILABLE PLANE.

4. ACCORDING TO SOURCES, ALL THIS HAS PUT BOKASSA IN A THOROUGHLY ANTI-LIBYAN (PERHAPS EVEN ANTI-ARAB) MOOD AND UNWILLING TO DEAL FURTHER WITH QADHAFI AT THIS POINT. HE REPORTEDLY HAS FORBIDDEN HIS PRESIDENTIAL CARAVELLE, NOW IN FRANCE FOR SERVICING, FROM EVEN OVERFLYING LIBYA ON RETURN TO BANGUI THIS WEEK.

5. COMMENT: BOKASSA'S ERSTWHILE AFFAIR WITH QADHAFI DOES SEEM TO BE OVER FOR THE MOMENT. BOKASSA TOLD ME AT JULY 4TH RECEPTION THAT HE "FEARED NO ONE," HAD ALWAYS COOPERATED WELL WITH ISRAELIS, AND WOULD BE SENDING MINISTERIAL-LEVEL GOODWILL MISSION TO ISRAEL. WE UNDERSTAND MISSION HEADED BY MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT DA SILVA HAS ALREADY DEPARTED. ROSENTHAL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGUI00812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS ROSENTHAL
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730744/aaaabgii.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 73 A. FORT LAMY 1037; B. BANGUI 761
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOKASSA'S ABORTED TRIP TO LIBYA
TAGS: PFOR, CT, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005